



Department of Toxic Substances Control  
FAQs  
Ag Park and the Neighborhood Evaluation

## 1. What is the Riverside Ag Park?

The Ag Park, at 7020 Crest Avenue, is an approximately 60-acre property located within the Arlanza neighborhood in the City of Riverside. Soil contamination at the Ag Park resulted from the operation of a former sewage treatment plant built on the site. The U.S. Army operated the plant beginning in 1942 as part of the 1,247-acre Camp Anza. After Camp Anza closed in 1946, the sewage treatment plant was run by a private utility company from 1947 to 1963, and then by the City of Riverside until 1965.

While the STP was in operation, it was standard practice to remove sludge from the plant and dry the sludge on the land within Ag Park. The STP accepted waste from homes as well as industrial operations. As such, the sludge contained industrial chemicals, including PCBs, metals, etc. In 2003, the above-ground concrete structures associated with the former sewage treatment plant were demolished, and there was a spill of sludge. This spill area was cleaned up under the direction of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB); however, discovery of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) beyond the footprint of the spill led to the City's request for DTSC oversight in 2005. It is possible that the PCBs outside the spill area are a result of historical sludge drying operations. DTSC provided oversight of investigation and cleanup activities and in April 2014 determined that no further action was needed. The developer, who had planned to build new homes at the Ag Park, then began the process to prepare the property for construction.

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In 2015, some community members requested confirmation of the April 2014 Ag Park decision. Initial confirmatory soil sampling was conducted in September 2015, and the results indicated higher than expected concentrations of PCBs in some soil samples. Based on the results, DTSC required the developer to conduct additional soil sampling in November 2015. DTSC evaluated risk to human health based on the results of the November 2015 samples collected and determined that PCB levels at the Ag Park do not pose a significant health risk to the surrounding community. In addition, 16 soil samples were collected from four residences adjacent (south) to the site in 2004; 11 of them had no detectable levels of PCBs and the concentrations detected in the other 5 samples were all below the residential screening level of 0.22 mg/kg. However, continued cleanup is needed in certain areas of the Ag Park prior to construction of residential homes.

Commented [AS1]: This sentence and the one I copied from Q7 seem out of place to me and raises many questions. However, I think it is ok and a point you may want to make a number of times. If you are to leave the mention of the 2015 RA, I think you should also mention the other sampling.

## 2. Who is DTSC and what do they do?

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is a division of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC is a government regulatory and oversight agency, whose responsibility is to protect Californians and their environment from exposure to hazardous wastes by enforcing hazardous waste laws and regulations. Among other tasks, DTSC oversees the investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties. DTSC has over 1,000 scientists, engineers, toxicologists, chemists, geologists, attorneys, criminal investigators

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and administrative staff. DTSC has eight offices, located in Sacramento, Berkeley, Clovis, Cypress, Chatsworth, El Centro and San Diego and two environmental chemistry laboratories.

**3. What is this Work Group and why was it set up?**

DTSC established a Work Group to provide input and feedback to DTSC on a process for conducting a neighborhood evaluation, and to disseminate information to the broader community. The Work Group will have the opportunity to review a proposed plan to determine if historic/legacy PCBs may have dispersed from the Ag Park via windblown dust and deposited in the surrounding neighborhood. The Work Group consists of community members and other interested groups who were selected based on their expressed interest. To ensure that a diversity of voices are represented in the Work Group, DTSC increased Work Group membership from 6 to 11. The Work Group has participated in three public meetings since June 2016, and has had several smaller meetings with a professional facilitator retained by DTSC to enhance collaboration.

**4. What other things has DTSC done to engage the community?**

DTSC has placed a strong emphasis on sharing information with the community. Since 2015, DTSC has mailed multiple public outreach documents reaching up to 3,000 residents, created a public web page and electronic mailing list, and held several public meetings to keep the community informed of project activities. DTSC has routinely posted field oversight reports on DTSC's EnviroStor webpage for the project. Additionally, DTSC has established a specific Ag Park website to increase the ease of access to documents; the Ag Park website address is [ HYPERLINK "<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/AgPark>" ]. Instructions on how to sign up for the E-list is provided on the Ag Park webpage.

**5. What is going on at the Ag Park these days?**

Soil is currently being excavated at the Ag Park with the following procedures:

- i. Excavation is being verified with confirmation samples. In addition to the Ag Park-wide excavation, additional samples will be collected from each future residential lot;
- ii. DTSC staff is providing full-time oversight of excavation/sampling activities;
- iii. DTSC and US EPA staff will collect a number of co-located soil samples for data verification purposes. Co-located soil samples will be sent to DTSC and US EPA laboratories for data verification purposes;
- iv. In addition to assigning staff to conduct full-time oversight of excavation/sampling activities, DTSC has also assigned staff to oversee fence line monitoring activities to ensure proper dust/air control measures are implemented;
- v. DTSC has posted a phone number for dust monitoring staff along the fence line as another resource for community concerns. DTSC checks the phone number for messages on a routine basis and responds in a timely manner;
- vi. DTSC is routinely posting field oversight logs, DTSC dust/air monitoring oversight logs, and the dust/air monitoring logs developed by the workers performing these activities on EnviroStor and the Ag Park web page.

**Commented [ZS2]:** US EPA won't collect the samples, so this could be read as misleading.

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vi-vii. Since 2015 DTSC and US EPA have coordinated and concurred on all sampling and the overall cleanup approach.

DTSC anticipates excavation activities will continue over the next few months. Upon completion of the excavation and confirmation sampling, DTSC and US EPA will review the implementation report along with the sampling data, and will make a determination about the Ag Park's suitability for residential development.

**6. I live near the Ag Park. Am I and my family safe?**

There is no evidence that the homes surrounding the Ag Park have been significantly affected by previous or recent activities conducted at the site. Specifically, PCBs and other chemicals of potential concern were either not detected or detected at very low levels in most of the soil samples collected near the property boundary of the site from 2004 to 2016. In addition, 16 soil samples were collected from four residences adjacent (south) to the site in 2004; 11 of them had no detectable levels of PCBs and the concentrations detected in the other 5 samples were all below the residential screening level of 0.22 mg/kg. Additionally, samples collected at perimeter dust monitoring stations have indicated little or no concentrations of PCBs in air. However, at the request of the community, DTSC has formed a technical team to develop a plan for evaluating of the neighborhood surrounding the Ag Park or PCBs.

**7. Do PCBs get taken up by fruit trees and vegetables in backyard gardens?**

While PCBs may be taken up by the lipophilic portions (e.g., skins and roots) of certain fruits and vegetables, it is unlikely to be a concern for residents living around the Ag Park. Specifically, PCBs were either not detected or detected at very low levels in the soil samples collected near the property boundary during the recent and historical sampling, including the four residences south of the Ag Park that were sampled in 2004 (see question 6 for details). Samples collected at perimeter dust monitoring stations have indicated little or no concentrations of PCBs in air. In addition, typical amounts of homegrown produce consumed by residents are such that they should not result in significant health effects even if low PCB levels were found in soil.

**8. Is the sickness of my pet related to contamination found in the Ag Park?**

There are many causes for illnesses in animals, besides environmental exposures. Please consult your personal veterinarian for testing and possible causes of specific illness.

**9. Will my property be sampled? (really don't answer the question. Is the answer yes, no, or maybe).**

DTSC recognizes that an evaluation of the neighborhood surrounding the Ag Park is important for nearby residents. DTSC has assigned a new Project Manager and supporting staff to evaluate potential historical impacts of PCBs in the communities surrounding the Ag Park. The team is designing an investigation to determine if dust containing PCBs from the Ag Park may have dispersed and deposited in the surrounding neighborhood. Air dispersion modeling will be conducted to identify appropriate neighborhood sampling locations. (Will this be a home?)

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The DTSC team will be responsible for coordination with other agencies on the development of a conceptual model and work plan, communication with stakeholders, and implementation of the evaluation.

**10. Why is DTSC only focused on looking for PCBs at the Ag Park?**

Under DTSC's oversight of environmental investigations and cleanup at the Ag Park, soil samples have been collected and analyzed for various contaminants other than PCBs including:

- i. ~62 soil samples tested for volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- ii. ~55 soil samples tested for semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs)
- iii. ~49 soil samples tested for Polynuclear compounds (PAHs)
- iv. ~57 soil samples tested for Chlorinated Pesticides
- v. ~25 soil samples tested for Organophosphorous Pesticides
- vi. ~25 soil samples tested for Herbicides
- vii. ~65 soil samples tested for Total Petroleum hydrocarbons
- viii. ~10 soil samples tested for explosive analytes (perchlorate, NDMA, nitroaromatics and nitramines)
- ix. ~91 soil samples tested for Title 22 metals (including antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, vanadium, and zinc)
- x. ~25 soil samples tested for Arsenic
- xi. ~ 56 soil samples tested for Dioxins and furans

**Commented [A53]:** Is this important for a Q&A doc? If not, I would remove.

Results of these analyses indicated that PCBs were the primary contaminant of concern at the Ag Park. In September 2015, DTSC re-confirmed the previous results by collecting and analyzing soil samples for additional contaminants such as metals including arsenic, barium, calcium, chromium, cobalt, copper, iron, lead, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, sodium, thallium, vanadium and zinc. All metals results were consistent with soil background concentrations. Dioxin/furan congeners were also analyzed for in selected September 2015 soil samples. Although some dioxin/furan congeners and homologs were detected in the soil samples above the laboratory reporting limits, they were below the established screening criteria. Perchlorate was not detected above laboratory reporting limit (5.8 micrograms per kilogram) in any soil samples from the September 2015 sampling event.

**Commented [A54]:** This may be too complicated w/o explanation of congeners and homologs.

**11. When will the houses be built?**

DTSC is not aware of the construction schedule. However, DTSC will not authorize any additional construction activities at the Ag Park until the cleanup has been completed and associated documentation approved by DTSC and US EPA.

**12. When will the Jurupa Avenue extension be completed?**

DTSC is not aware of the schedule for extension. However, as noted in the response to FAQ #11, DTSC will not authorize any additional construction activities at the Ag Park until the cleanup has been completed and associated documentation approved by DTSC and US EPA.

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**13. Why is it taking so long to investigate and cleanup the Ag Park Neighborhood when the Fieldstone Residential Area in Huntington Beach was completed in less than one year?"**

At any given time, DTSC manages hundreds of different environmental cleanup and/or investigations projects. Each project is very unique, and presents its own set of circumstances and variables which are reflected in the project schedule. The Fieldstone Residential Area, mentioned by Workgroup members during the August and October 2016 public meetings is a project that DTSC started working on in July 2002. The project had two focus areas; the Fieldstone Property, which was a 42-acre undeveloped wetland property, and the Fieldstone Residential Area, which included existing residences in the vicinity of the wetland property.

As an aspect of the investigation of the Fieldstone Property, a construction debris pile was sampled and analyzed for PCBs. This construction debris pile, which was located in relative proximity to the property line adjacent to the residential neighborhood, was determined to have had elevated concentrations of PCBs. To further investigate, step out samples were collected between the debris pile and the fence line. The PCB concentrations did show a decreasing trend towards the fence line; however, concentrations were still elevated, and as a result, soil samples were collected in multiple phases from the yards of twenty-seven of the neighborhood homes. Of the twenty-seven residential yards sampled, ten were found to have concentrations exceeding 0.22 mg/kg. In August 2003, these yards were cleaned-up through a process of removing soil, loading excavated soil into vacuum bins, and then transporting the soil to a disposal facility. Soil samples were collected from the excavation to determine whether or not additional excavation was required, and if needed, additional excavation was conducted until soil samples confirmed that the yard was cleaned-up to an acceptable level. This process was implemented for the ten yards impacted by PCBs. Note that the cleanup was limited to the yards, and no investigation and/or cleanup was conducted within the residences.

The final report documenting the cleanup of the Fieldstone Residential Area was submitted to DTSC in June 2006. The investigation and cleanup of the Fieldstone Residential Area took approximately two years to complete. It might be worth reiterating...

The Fieldstone Residential Area is different from Ag Park in that data for Ag Park does not indicate that off-site residential properties have been impacted above the PCB residential screening level. 16 soil samples were collected from four residences adjacent (south) to the site in 2004; 11 of them had no detectable levels of PCBs and the concentrations detected in the other 5 samples were all below the residential screening level of 0.22 mg/kg.

**14. Who is ATSDR and what do they do?**

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), based in Atlanta, Georgia, is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions,

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and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and diseases related to toxic substances.

**15. Why/How is ATSDR involved?**

ATSDR received a petition for involvement from the City of Riverside. The City requested that ATSDR conduct a public health assessment that will address the possible health effects associated with the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) found at the park and surrounding neighborhoods.

**16. What is the process that ATSDR will follow to respond to the City's request for a health assessment?**

All requests are evaluated for relevance to ATSDR's mission, whether data are available for analysis, and public health priority. Actions taken on accepted petitions are designed to determine whether people have been, or are currently being, exposed to hazardous substances released into the environment from a hazardous waste site or facility. ATSDR then evaluates whether the exposure is harmful, or potentially harmful, and whether the exposure should be stopped or reduced. These evaluations are based on the available environmental sampling data typically collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Tribes, or state and local regulatory agencies. ATSDR may select another agency to conduct evaluations on their behalf.

**17. What is ATSDR's timing to respond to the City's request for a health assessment?**

In October 2016 ATSDR determined that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) would be assigned to address City's petition.

**INFORMATION on CDPH – Who, Why, What, How Long???**

**Commented [A55]:** These should be reviewed by ATSDR. Some may not be necessary at this point.

**18. Who are the California Cancer Registry and what do they do?**

The California Cancer Registry (CCR) is a program of the California Department of Public Health's Chronic Disease Surveillance and Research Branch (CDSRB). The CCR is California's statewide population-based cancer surveillance system. They collect information about almost all cancers diagnosed in California. This information furthers the understanding of cancer and is used to develop strategies and policies for its prevention, treatment, and control. The availability of data on cancer in the state allows health researchers to analyze demographic and geographic factors that affect cancer risk, early detection, and effective treatment of cancer patients. The data also help determine where early detection, educational, and other cancer-related programs should be directed. The CCR is recognized as one of the leading cancer registries in the world, and has been the cornerstone of a substantial amount of research on cancer in the California population. To date the CCR has collected detailed information on over 7 million cases of cancer among Californians diagnosed from 1988 forward, and more than 175,000 new cases are added annually. For the questions about cancer occurrences in the Riverside area, please contact Dr. John Morgan, Regional Epidemiologist, Region 5, California Cancer Registry at (909) 558-6181.

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**19. Who can answer questions regarding my personal health?**

Please contact your personal physician. If you do not have access to healthcare, please contact Riverside Community Connect at 1-800-464-1123

**20. Who can answer questions regarding planning, zoning and future property use?**

Please contact the City of Riverside Planning Department at (951) 826-5371.

**21. To whom can I report incidences of cancer or other illnesses so this area can be tracked by health professionals?**

Please contact the Riverside County Disease Control Branch at (951) 358-5107.

**22. How can I learn more about cancer information, cancer monitoring and cancer clusters?**

Please contact Dr. John Morgan, Regional Epidemiologist, Region 5, California Cancer Registry at (909) 558-6181 for questions about cancer occurrences. Dr. Morgan has completed an evaluation of cancer incidences in the neighborhood areas surrounding the Ag Park.

**23. How can I learn more about my health being possibly affected by environmental exposure?**

If you are concerned about your current health being affected by an environmental exposure, you should first discuss this with your family doctor. If you would also like additional consultation after talking with your doctor, you can contact the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) at the University of California-San Francisco. The AOEC can provide individual medical consultation and if needed, medical evaluation. The AOEC does not provide legal action, investigation or enforcement. You may find more information about AOEC at [ [HYPERLINK "http://www.aoec.org/"](http://www.aoec.org/) ].

**24. How can I get more information about the cleanup of Ag Park?**

- Recent project documents are available electronically [ [HYPERLINK "http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/AgPark/"](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/AgPark/) ]
- Recent and historical project documents are available electronically at [ [HYPERLINK "http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/"](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/) ]
- Actual documents can be reviewed at the DTSC Cypress office, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732. Contact Ms. Jone Barrio at (714) 484-5300 for an appointment.
- Work Group meetings will be held on December 13 2016 and February 9 2016 at the Arlanza Community Center.
- Please feel free to contact Stacey Lear, the DTSC Public Participation Specialist for any questions you may have, and she will direct you to the applicable DTSC staff.

**Commented [ZS6]:** This has been pushed back to January, right?

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**25. What is EnviroStor and how can I use it to learn more about the Ag Park?**

DTSC's EnviroStor database is an online search and Geographic Information System (GIS) tool for identifying sites that have known contamination or sites for which there may be reasons to investigate further. Members of the public can conduct searches by site name, address, city, and county, or EnviroStor ID number. The EnviroStor database can also be downloaded. You can access EnviroStor content, including Ag Park documents, at: [ HYPERLINK "<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>" ] .

The easiest way to access Ag Park documents is by going through the following steps:

1. Got to [ HYPERLINK "<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>" ]
2. On the left hand banner, click on "Advanced Search"
3. Under the Search Parameters, write "Crest" in the Address Description box, and "Riverside" in the City box
4. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the "Get Report" button
5. Click on "Report"
6. Click on the "Activities" tab for documents, the "Community Involvement" tab for public notices and community updates, and the "Map" tab to see location maps

**Commented [AS7]:** Why not just give them this link  
"[http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=33490087](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=33490087)"

If you would like help accessing and learning more about EnviroStor, please contact the EnviroStor Help Link at: [ HYPERLINK "<mailto:envirostor@dtsc.ca.gov>" ] , or call the EnviroStor help desk at 1-877-7TOXICS (1-877-786-9427).